

R E M A R K S

The Examiner objected to drawings as being drawn by freehand. Applicants reviewed all the drawing figures and find that the only drawing figure that was drawn freehand was Figure 18. The others were created by a draftsman. The Replacement Sheet for Fig. 18 herein eliminates the freehand portion and provides a draftsman rendering. The Examiner may observe that although bags or bag openings are shown in some of the other drawing figures, these bags or bag openings are by their nature wavy lines and therefore are not technically "freehand".

Next the Examiner indicated that Figures 16-17 and 19 appear to be missing. Attached are Replacement Sheet Drawings for those Figures 16-17 and 19 from the PCT application.

The Examiner next objected to the drawings as not including certain features of certain claims. As to claim 69, all features of this claim are shown in the drawings in Figure 5. This claim was amended, however, to correct a claiming error and the amended claim 69 now clearly reads with respect to the lid shown in Fig. 2, for example. See the sixth locking element 32 on the locking lid 30 complementary to the fourth locking element 20 at an upper side of the second band 4.

The specification problem noted by the Examiner at page 3, Section 3 of the Office Action has been avoided by the specification amendment herein to the Substitute Specification.

As to the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections of various claims, claim 83 is cancelled, claim 90 is cancelled, claim 91 is cancelled, claim 97 is cancelled, and claim 98 is cancelled.

As to claim 107, this claim was amended to correct a claiming error and now is no longer indefinite.

As to claims 108-110, Applicants disagree that they do not further limit the claims since they do add additional new method steps. Also note that previous claim 110 has been incorporated into claim 104 along with previous claim 105.

The Examiner indicated that dependent claim 67 was allowable. Claim 67 has been incorporated into claim 60 with the remaining dependent claims dependent on that allowable claim.

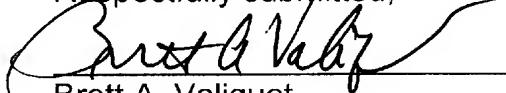
The Examiner further indicated that previous dependent method claim 110 was allowable. That claim together with previous claim 105 have been incorporated into method claim 104 making that claim allowable. The remaining dependent claims are dependent on allowable claim 104.

If any further issues remain, a telephone interview is requested.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. No. 27,841)

Brett A. Valiquet

SCHIFF HARDIN LLP

Patent Department - **CUSTOMER NO. 26574**

Suite 6600 - 233 South Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 258-5786

Attorneys for Applicant

CH2\8397634.1